

Kong-Yu Wong

The Song of Love

Poems by W. H. Davies set to music

for women's choir

duration: 8 minutes

The Song of Love

I

The oak bears little acorns, yet
Is big in branch and root:
My love is like the smaller tree,
That bears a larger fruit.

II

In Spring, when it is leafing time,
We know what plants will live;
But love need never wait for Spring,
To show its power to thrive.

III

Trouble may come, yet love will stay:
No heavy rain can beat
The lighting down and out – and birds
Wet through sing twice as sweet.

IV

Love is a staff, and Love's a rod,
A wise man and a fool;
I thought that I was wise, until
Love sent me back to school.

V

Scorn not because my body live
In such a little space;
Think how my mind, on that account,
Inhabits greater space.

VI

My smallest blossom sometimes is
The Moon or setting Sun;
Sears are my pearls, and forest vast
Have no more trees than one!

*from The Complete Poems of W. H. Davies,
published in 1963 by Jonathan Cape Limited.*

The Song of Love

Kong-Yu Wong

soft, gentle, not too slow

Soprano I
mf *p*
 bears lit - tle a - corns, branch, root,

Soprano II
p
 The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

Alto I
p
 The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

Alto II
p
 The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

S I
mf *p*
 woo...
 1. my love, my love, my love is like the
 2. my love, my love, my love, my love, my love, my love,

S II
div. mf
 1. my love, my love, my love, my love, my love, my love,

A I
div. mf
 1. my love, my love, my love, my love, my love, my love,

A II
mf
 ny love, my love, my love, my love, my love, my love,

11 *p*

S I smal - ler tree

S II div. *p* 1. unison
2. smal - ler tree, (my love, a smal - ler tree) that bears a lar - ger

A I unison *p* smal - ler tree, that bears a lar - ger

A II unison *p* smal - ler tree, a lar - ger

15 *mp* *pp*

S I fruit, woo... - - - - - (oo)

S II *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*

A I *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*

A II *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*

with motion

mp

Soprano

In Spring, when it is leaf - ing time, leaf -

mp

Alto

In Spring, in Spring, in Spring, when it is leaf - ing time, leaf - ing time,

6

S

ing time, leaf - ing time, we know what plants will

A

leaf - - - ing time, leaf - ing time, leaf - ing time, leaf - ing time, what plants

12

S

live; but love

p

A

will live; but love

much slower

16 *mf* *p*

S need ne - ver wait for Spring, to show its

A *mf* *p* solo
need ne - ver wait for Spring, (ne - - - ver wait for Spring) to show its

a tempo

20 *mp* *mp*

S pow - - - er, to thrive. ah...

A solo *mp* unison
pow - - - er, to thrive.
(its pow - - - er)

23

S ah... ah... ah...

A ah... ah... ah...

slow and lingering

p

Soprano I
Trou - ble may come, yet love will stay:

p

Soprano II
Trou - ble may come, yet love will stay:

p

Alto I
Trou - ble may come, 5 yet love will stay:

p

Alto II
Trou - ble may come, yet love will stay: (stay) solo

5

S I
no hea - vy rain can beat the light - - - ing down solo, expressive 3

S II
no hea - vy rain can beat

A I
no hea - vy rain can beat

unison

A II
no hea - vy rain can beat

9 *unison p*

S I and out, and birds wet through sing

S II *p* and birds wet through sing

A I *p* and birds wet through sing

A II *p* and birds wet through sing *solo, expressive f* sing

13 *mf* *mp* *p*

S I twice as sweet, as sweet. (t)

S II *p* twice as sweet, sweet. (t)

A I *p* twice as sweet, sweet. (t)

A II *p unison* twice as sweet. sweet. (t)

IV

lively

mp

Soprano

Love is a staff, and Love is a rod, a wise

mp

Alto

Love is a staff, and Love is a rod, a

6

S

man and a fool; Love is a staff, and Love is a

A

wise man and a fool; Love is a staff, and

11

S

rod, a wise man and a fool; I

A

Love is a rod, a wise man and a fool;

16

S thought that I was wise, I was wise,

A I thought that I was wise, I was wise,

Several singers speak softly:
I thought I was wise.

21

S un - till Love sent me back,

A un - till Love sent me

mp

mp

27

S

A

back,

to school.

to school.

V

31

S

A

V

with no motion, eternal

div. *pp*

Soprano I

div. *pp*

Soprano II

unison. recitative *mf*

Scorn not be-cause my bo - dy live in such a lit - tle

div. *pp*

Alto I

Ah... Ah...

unison. *pp*

Alto II

Ah...

unison. *pp*

7

S I

S II

place, a lit - tle place; think how my mind, on that a - ccount,

mf

3

pp

div. *pp*

A I

A II

13

S I

S II

A I

A II

in - ha - bits great - er space,

pp

pp

div.

pp

17

S I

S II

A I

A II

great - - - er space.

mf

(ce)

VI

anxious, agitated

mf 3:2

Soprano
My small - est blos - som some - - - times is the

mf 3:2

Alto
My small - est blos - som some - - - times is the

5

S
Moon or set - - ting Sun;

5:4 3:2

A
Moon or set - - ting Sun;

9

S
Seas are pearls, and -

5:4 3

A
Seas are pearls, and

14

S for - - - - - est vast, *f*

A for - - - - - est vast, *f*

18

S *ff* (st) Have on more *mp*

A *ff* (st) Have no more *mp*

23

S 3:2 trees than one!

A 3:2 trees than one!

27

S *p* No more trees than one!

A *p* No more trees than one!

VII

slow and lingering

Soprano I

bears lit - tle a - corns, branch, root,

Soprano II

The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

Alto I

The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

Alto II

The oak bears lit - tle a - corns, yet is big in branch and root:

S I

woo... my love, my love, my love is like the

S II

my love, my love, my love, my love,

A I

my love, my love, my love, my love,

A II

ny love, my love, my love, my love,

mf *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *div. mf* *f* *mp* *unison*

11 *p*

S I smal - ler tree

S II div. *p* 1. unison
2. smal - ler tree, (my love, a smal - ler tree) that bears a lar - ger

A I unison *p* smal - ler tree, that bears a lar - ger

A II unison *p* smal - ler tree, a lar - ger

15 *mp*

S I fruit, woo... (oo) *pp*

S II *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*

A I *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*

A II *fp* fruit. (uit) *pp*